

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

YOUTH GANG AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, according to North Carolina GangNet, there are estimated to be over one million gang members in the USA, representing thousands of gangs; and

WHEREAS, gang violence and associated gun violence, illegal drug activity and other criminal actions are a growing concern that pose a threat to public safety, health and our quality of life in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, *A Comprehensive Assessment of Gangs in North Carolina: A Report to the General Assembly*, March 2008, reports that there were 436 validated gangs in NC GangNet, and of these 407 are currently being classified as criminal youth gang; and

WHEREAS, according to North Carolina GangNet, the most commonly reported crime was drug possession (65%) followed by vandalism (62%), assaults (58%) and weapons-related offenses (53%); and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature of North Carolina is considering legislation; and

WHEREAS, gang violence should be understood as a complex socio-economic phenomenon that requires a combination of approaches including family and community awareness, cultural awareness, appropriate childhood intervention, political, and educational steps together with parents, community leaders, educators, elected officials, gang specialists and law enforcement joining forces and combining strategies; and

WHEREAS, the counties in North Carolina are encouraged to establish a coalition that includes both the public and private sectors to work on an intelligent, comprehensive approach for prevention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2008, as "**YOUTH GANG AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**," and commend participants for their commitment and dedication to working towards the goal of a gang-free state.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this first day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.